

# **CALIFORNIA CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION**

## **SEPTEMBER 2001 COMMISSION MEETING**

### **BAKERSFIELD, CA**

**September 20, 2001**

### **HIGHLIGHTS**

1. Central Valley Project - A conceptual proposal for a Central Valley demonstration project to address the needs of children of farm workers was presented by the Kern County Children and Families Commission on behalf of seven counties: Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, Stanislaus, and Tulare. The concept presented would request \$52 million from the State Commission (\$13 million per year for four years) to fund 300 locally recruited and trained paraprofessionals using the "promotora" model of service delivery, to reach the 94,000 children of farm workers in those counties. County Commissions were asked to bring additional information and context to the State Commission for further consideration of the proposal, including but not limited to the following:

- clearly stated goals and objectives
- outcomes to be achieved
- measures of success
- relationship between this and other potential funding opportunities
- assurance of integration and collaboration with existing programs, including the local School Readiness programs under development in those counties, as well as other programs for children, such as Head Start, etc.

2. School Readiness Component of the Master Plan for Education - Update
  - The School Readiness Working Group are deliberating on various topics for consideration of inclusion in the draft report:
    - Family leave

- High quality settings
- Kith and kin and informal care
- Continuity and transition
- Governance
- Financing accountability, assessment, and data
- Language, literacy, and pedagogy (multi-lingual, multi-cultural)
- Professional development, compensation, qualifications
- Facilities, licensing, regulation
- The targeted completion date of the draft report is February 2002.
- The Working Group meeting scheduled for September 28 has been cancelled.
- The next meeting of the School Readiness Working Group will be October 25-26. There will be a retreat for Joint Legislative Committee members and all of the Master Plan Work Group Chairs on October 22-23. (See CCFC's website for a link to the Joint Committee's website for more information.)

### 3. Policy Panels for Commission Information

- The Commission directed staff to develop a panel approach to inform the Commission in setting policies and priorities and in determining how best to invest Prop 10 funds. Under this approach, panels of objective experts with balanced perspectives would be organized around the five essential elements of School Readiness:
  - children's readiness for school
  - schools' readiness for children
  - health and social services
  - parenting/family support services that contribute to children's readiness for school success
  - program infrastructure, administration, and evaluation

The panels would be invited to Commission meetings to discuss key strategic and/or policy issues within the context of School Readiness (e.g., children's health, early care and education, research, etc.). It is envisioned that these discussions and ensuring strategy/policy papers would help inform and assist the Commissioners in their future policy decisions.

#### 4. Media and Community-Based Organization (CBO) Outreach Update

- The role and objective of the CBO Program in the overall public education component is to communicate Prop. 10 messages at a grassroots level to audiences missed by the Campaign's mass media efforts and link target audiences with local resources.
- The program has been structured to allow regional committees to determine regional priorities and select CBOs to address those priorities through their outreach efforts. With oversight by the Commission, Rogers & Associates will administer the grant payments and execute the contracts to ensure outreach efforts are carried out.
- An update was provided on the CBO Task Force recommendations which included the Request for Proposal (RFP) timeline, target audiences, funding allocations, overarching messages, outreach activities and elements associated with selection and evaluation.
- The CBO RFPs will be issued in 3 rounds, the first issued in October with grants awarded in January 2002 and the last RFP issued in March 2002 and grants awarded in May.

5. \$200,000 Minimum Allocation for County Commissions

The Commission considered for discussion a proposal to authorize the disbursement of funds to an estimated 8 county commissions to ensure that each of the 58 county commissions has a \$200,000 minimum allocation. This proposal is in keeping with like proposals for each of the previous two fiscal years, and would be an allocation for the current (2001/02) fiscal year. The Commission directed staff to work with the County Association to:

- Determine the amount of funding required to approve this allocation.
- Perform analyses to determine an appropriate baseline amount.
- Provide analyses on options to resolve this on a permanent basis.

6. Fiscal Year 2001-02 State Budget

- The Commission directed staff to work with the Department of Health Services and others to explore the use of \$5 million for outreach services for the Healthy Families and Medi-Cal for Children Program and come back to the Commission with a series of options.
- The Commission also directed staff to prepare a policy paper that outlines the Commission's "principles" that guide decisions related to the state budget proposals for Prop 10 revenues.
- The Commission asked counsel from the Office of the State Attorney General to develop an advisory letter on the issue of "supplantation" and "supplementation," related to Prop 10 funding. (Current law clearly prohibits the use of Prop 10 revenues to fund existing levels of service and to supplant state or local General Fund money for any purpose.)

## 7. Announcements:

- Launch of the Kit for New Parents and the Commission's New Media Campaign:

The press event scheduled for September 25 has been postponed to late October or early November, in light of the tragic events of September 11. An announcement will be made and posted on the Commission's website as soon as a date is confirmed.

- Advisory Committee on Diversity: The September 24 meeting of the Commission's Advisory Committee on Diversity has been postponed until some time in October, also due to the events of September 11. Again, as soon as a new date is confirmed, it will be announced and posted on the Commission's website.